(iii) Commission to STD-PCO franchisees in the rest of the country to be paid @16% upto a gross of Rs. 20,000.00 per month. @15% on gross turn over between Rs., 20,000.00 and Rs. 50,000.00 per month and @12% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000.00 per month.

(h) Group dialling facility extended upto 30 kms in Rural hilly and tribal areas of the country and 20 kms in other areas if one of the following three conditions is met:—

(i) The calling and called exchange are both in the same SDCA.

(ii) Even if the calling and the called exchange are not within the same SDCA, the corresponding SDCAs are within a distance of 30/20 kms from each other as the case may be.

(iii) Local areas of the calling and the called exchanges have a common boundary even if they fall in adjacent SDCAs.

2. The concessional rates will take effect from 1.1.1996. The financial impact of the package will be about Rs. 200 crores per year.

Meeting of Board of Directors of All India Handloom Marketing Society

1338. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the All India Handloom Marketing Society consists of four Government Directors;

(b) whether these Directors are Attending the Board meetings regularly; and

(c) the number of Board meetings have been conducted during the last three years and expenditure incurred for these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Board of Directors of the All India Handloom Fabric Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd. consists of three Government Directors.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, seventeen Board meetings have been conducted, out of which ten meetings have attended by the Government Directors. The expenditure incurred on seventeen Board meetings is Rs. 21.67 lakhs.

Interest Earned by Hyderabad Telecom Phone Applications

1339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount lying with Hyderabad Telecom which has been deposited with phone applications;

(b) whether interest is being earned from Banks on this amount;

(c) if so, the interest collected in 1995-96 from funds collected through receipt of phone applications; and

(d) the steps proposed to to pay interest on deposits made by the public?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The amounts in question as on 31.10.96 are as under:

OYT	Rs. 7.05 lakhs
General	Rs. 1198.47 lakhs
	Rs. 1205.52 lakhs

(b) No, Sir. The amount is deposited in Reserve Bank of India and the Department earns no interest on this.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Simple interest at the rate allowed by SBI is allowed to the prospective subscribers under prevailing rules and is adjusted in the (first) bills issued to them after opening of the Telephone connections. If the application is